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Capital Chatter

By WASHINGTON BUREAU STAFF

WASHINGTON — WHILE COM-

plaints mount about the Central Intelligence Agency's operations in South Viet Nam, Congress continues to ignore bills by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy and others to set up a watchdog committee.

In at least one cold war area, the CIA and state department are in such open disagreement that the dispute has been bucked up to the White House for solution because the secretary of state and CIA director cannot settle it.

A most serious aspect of CIA's operations is its infiltration of agents into other U.S. agencies with overseas employees. This is having the effect abroad of undermining confidence of host countries in these agencies.

For example, one high U.S. Information Agency official told this bureau that CIA has a man working undercover in many USIA missions. The same is true of foreign aid, U.S. embassy and U.S. agriculture missions as well as private American business offices abroad. Host countries are aware of this.

A standing joke about one prominent Gulf Oil Co. employee is that "CIA is his cover." This joke is a switch on the usual description of a CIA man, who uses a job with a U.S. oil company, a U.S. foreign agency, or some other employment as a cover for his intelligence operations.

Some CIA men, particularly in Europe, are American expatriates, people with elevated social and fiscal backgrounds from the Eastern seaboard, who have made their homes for decades wherever the international jet set happens to hang out.

Such activities, unsupervised by Congress or any publicly accountable body, have troubled senators and congressmen for years. The purpose of "watchdog" legislation is not to require CIA to make a public disclosure of its operations, but to require accounting to Congress in the same manner that the atomic energy agencies of the armed services do.

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X Para 2 Eugene J.
McCarthy
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